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THE Vegetable SITUATION

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SUMMARY

Prices to growers for most fresh vegetables and new potatoes probably will be moderately higher this spring and early summer than in the same months last year, due to considerably smaller supplies this year.

Prices to growers for truck crops so far this season generally have been above those of a year earlier, although a record carry-over of cabbage and a near-record carry-over of onions limited price advances for these crops until the storage stocks were moved out. Both winter and spring season production of commercial truck crops are each estimated to be considerably smaller than a year earlier, though moderately above average.

Early intentions of processors to plant or contract acreages of truck crops for canning or freezing indicated that acreages planted this year compared with last year might be 2.5 percent larger for sweet corn, about 1 percent smaller for tomatoes, 4 percent smaller for green peas, and 7 percent smaller for snap beans. Acreage of other crops which processors intend to plant or contract this year compared with last year are smaller by 11 percent for cucumbers for pickles, 32 percent for beets, and 46 percent for cabbage for kraut, but 39 percent larger for pimientos.

Packers' and distributors' total stocks of canned vegetables on March 1, 1947, were 44 percent larger than a year earlier and 19 percent above the 1943-45 average for that date. An important exception was stocks of canned whole tomatoes, which this March 1 were only 57 percent of the average for this date. Cold-storage holdings of frozen vegetables April 1 were nearly double those of a year earlier. Present stocks of canned and frozen vegetables partly result from the record packs of the past season.

The greater part of the record surplus of about 90 million bushels of potatoes from the 1946 crop has been disposed of outside the usual market outlets. Shipments this winter and spring to foreign countries for relief feeding and seed use may total 10 million bushels. Working off these excess stocks of potatoes has resulted in a better balance between supply and demand. Partly as a result of this, prices have risen slowly and in April were generally at or slightly above support levels at country shipping points.

If growers of potatoes carry out their March planting intentions and State yields equal the 1942-46 average, the 1947 potato crop will be one-fourth smaller than that of 1946. A crop of this size probably would not impose a surplus disposal problem. Prices received by growers for new potatoes averaged about 10 percent higher in mid-April than a year earlier. Because a smaller crop seems likely, prices for new potatoes in late spring also are expected to be higher than a year ago.

Prospective plantings of sweetpotatoes point to a new crop about 7 percent smaller than the 1946 crop. Prices received by growers for the better quality of the fast-dwindling stocks of the old crop may increase slightly and will continue considerably above the support levels of the past winter.

Slightly larger crops of dry edible beans and dry peas are in prospect for 1947, according to farmers' intentions to plant. The 1946 crops have moved readily into domestic and foreign outlets, and stocks again will be low at the end of the season. Prices received by growers for beans in April 1947 were nearly double those a year earlier, while those for peas were up about one-tenth.

(For release May 8, A. M.)

TRUCK CROPS FOR FRESH MARKET

Winter Season Production Considerably Lower Than Last Year

The acreage of commercial truck crops for fresh market grown during the past winter season is estimated at 278,190 acres. This is lower than in any year since 1943 and 9 percent lower than in 1946. Production is estimated at 1,273,400 tons. Although this is the smallest production since 1943, 18 percent below the 1945 record and 12 percent below that of 1946, it is 16 percent above the 1936-45 average. Production of individual crops this winter differed considerably from last winter. Cucumbers were 24 percent and tomatoes 45 percent of production last winter, while carrots and kale were 111 and 112 percent. Because of a much smaller production, prices received by farmers for most items this winter, particularly after January, were much higher than those received the previous winter.

Spring Season Prospects Also Considerably Below Spring 1946

Early estimates of 16 crops indicate that production of commercial truck crops for fresh market this spring may be about one-sixth below the spring of 1946 but about one-tenth above the 10-year average for the season. Production of commercial truck crops for fresh market to date has been smaller than for the same period last spring. Both acreages planted and yields per acre were lower, largely because of unfavorable weather which, in some important areas, delayed planting, slowed development, and caused serious loss to crops ready for harvest.

Except for snap beans, production of all spring crops for which estimates have been made is expected to be smaller than last year. Production of cucumbers, eggplant, onions, green peas, green peppers, and tomatoes is expected to be from 29 to 49 percent smaller. However, production of most truck crops will be above the 10-year average. Only beets, green peas, shallots, and spinach will be considerably below average. Acreage of asparagus and watermelons for late spring harvest is estimated to be slightly above last year and considerably above average, but acreage for cabbage and onions is one-eighth to one-fifth smaller than last year.

Summer Season Prospects

According to growers' intentions, the acreage of cabbage for summer harvest, including that which may be used for sauerkraut, is expected to be about 6 percent smaller than last summer and 11 percent below average. Intentions indicate that summer acreage of onions may be about 14 percent below last year but 7 percent above average, while that of watermelons may be only 6 percent below last summer and 18 percent above average. Total prospective acreage in these 3 crops, which comprise not quite half the total acreage of crops usually grown for the summer season fresh market, apparently will be about 8 percent below last year and 12 percent above average.

Prices to Growers in Second Quarter of 1947 Expected to be Higher Than in Second Quarter of 1946

In the spring of 1946, new records were set in acreage and production for commercial truck crops for fresh market and prices broke sharply below wartime levels. This spring, however, production will be substantially lower and prices received by growers in May and June are expected to be above those of a year earlier. Shipments from many areas are about 2 weeks later than in recent years when spring came unusually early.

Cabbage

Stocks of storage (Danish type) cabbage in the hands of growers and local dealers on January 1, 1947, were estimated at 113,900 tons, the highest of record and more than double the stocks on hand a year earlier. These record holdings were about 29 percent of the 1946 record production of Danish type cabbage. From 1936 to 1945, January 1 stocks averaged 17 percent of the preceding years' crops of Danish type cabbage. Stocks this year were unusually large in New York State, which held nearly 94 percent of the total compared with the usual 85 percent, and were nearly 3 times the New York holdings of a year earlier. On the other hand, January holdings were smaller than a year earlier in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Colorado.

Carlot shipments of 1946-crop cabbage by rail and water totaled 26,993 cars through the week ending April 19, 1947, more than 6,100 cars below the number shipped through the corresponding season for the 1945 crop. Since only two cars were shipped in that week, it appeared that rail shipments were about finished for this season. Apparently, a larger proportion of the cabbage in storage moved by truck in the 1946-crop season than a year earlier. Shipments of 1947 new-crop cabbage through the week ending April 19, 1947, totaled 11,546 cars, only moderately less than the 12,350 cars shipped during the same period

a year earlier. Production of winter season cabbage, including some which may have been used as sauerkraut, was estimated at 317,300 tons, compared to the 371,700 tons produced a year earlier.

Production of cabbage for early spring market is estimated at 101,300 tons, compared with 119,500 tons for early spring 1946. Cabbage for late spring harvest is estimated at 11,350 acres, 12 percent less than acreage a year earlier but 3 percent larger than the 10-year average for late spring. Compared with the harvest last year, the acreage of cabbage growers intend to plant this year is slightly lower in the early summer areas, moderately lower in the late summer areas, and considerably lower in the early fall areas.

Monthly changes in prices received by growers this year have been more like those of the 1944- and 1945-crop seasons than those of the 1946-crop season. Prices were relatively high in January, but declined during February and March. In March, prices were not far above the 1937-41 average. Last year, cabbage prices were at a peak in March, declined rapidly in May and June, rose moderately through August, and then declined to a low point in October. This year, prices for cabbage are expected to rise moderately through May and June and remain above 1946 levels for the rest of the year.

Lettuce

Production of lettuce for winter markets this year was 4 percent below last year, but 57 percent above average. Production for the early spring market was estimated to be 11 percent below that of a year earlier but 14 percent above average. Carlot shipments of lettuce by rail and boat from January 1 through April 19 totaled more than 25,000 cars, about the same as in the similar period of 1946. Prices to growers were very high in January and February but broke sharply in March and April. Demand is expected to continue strong, at least through early summer, and price prospects depend to a considerable extent upon production.

Lettuce price movements apparently have no consistent seasonal pattern. Monthly averages of prices seem to rise and fall on a three- or four-month cycle, but the highs and lows often do not occur in the same months each year. The production of lettuce is distributed in such a way that about the same quantity can be put on the market in each quarter of the year if the weather is not unusual. Season average prices received by growers for lettuce usually are more closely associated with the general level of business activity than with the size of the commercial lettuce crop. If business activity declines this year, prices for lettuce probably will fall.

Onions

Commercial production of onions in 1946 for late summer harvest is estimated at 38,911,000 sacks (50 pounds each), by far the largest of record. The late summer crop provides most of the onions that go into storage for winter and early spring use. Substantial quantities were not harvested in 1946 because of marketing conditions. Shrinkage and loss, including the unharvested production, were the heaviest of record. However, on January 1 of this year growers and dealers in or near the areas of production held a near-record 11.5 million sacks of onions in storage, 51 percent above the 1936-45 average for that date.

Because of the near-record carry-over of onions, prices to growers in the early months of 1947 have been lower than for the same months of any other year since 1941. Onion prices for the rest of this year are expected to follow the general pattern of 1945 but will be lower. Commercial production and prices of onions fluctuate considerably from year to year. High production and low prices in one year are likely to be followed by low production and high prices in the next. This has been true in at least three years out of five. This year is following the general pattern. With yields no higher than the high yields of last year, prospects for the second half of this year are for lower production and much higher prices than last year.

Commercial plantings for late spring harvest are estimated at 10,300 acres, about 20 percent less than either the acreage harvested last spring or the 10-year average for this season. Intentions of growers for later periods also indicate lower acreages than last year. The most substantial reduction in intended acreage is in the Western States producing for late summer harvest. If these acreage intentions are carried out, onion production this year probably will be far below last year.

Tomatoes

Fresh market supplies of tomatoes from domestic sources through early April 1947 were far below those of a year earlier. Domestic shipments of 1947-season tomatoes by rail and boat through the week ending April 19 totaled 2,303 cars, compared with 4,436 cars for the corresponding period a year earlier. Tomatoes brought extremely high prices to growers the first 4 months of this year. This encouraged very large imports of tomatoes, most of which came from Mexico. Imports through the week ending April 19 totaled 9,545 cars, 2,590 cars more than were imported for the same period a year earlier and about 2,200 cars more than were imported during the entire season last year.

Commercial production of tomatoes for fresh market in the winter season this year was less than half that a year earlier when it was about average. Production for early spring harvest was 39 percent smaller than last year, though 8 percent above average. Acreage growers intend to plant for late harvest has not yet been reported. On the average, however, winter and early spring production are only about one-fifth of annual production. The record large production of 1946 brought higher growers' prices than in any year except 1944 and 1945. Prices growers receive this year for tomatoes probably will average far above prewar levels, though they may be appreciably below those of the last four years.

Seasonally, prices for tomatoes fall most abruptly in May and June, decline further but less abruptly through the summer, and begin rising again in September or October.

Other Truck Crops Important
In Spring Tonnage

Commercial production of asparagus for early spring harvest, including asparagus used for processing in States other than California, is estimated to be 3 percent less than that of a year earlier and 7 percent less than the 1936-45 average. Acreage of asparagus for late spring harvest is 2 percent larger than the acreage harvested a year ago and 27 percent above average.

Production of snap beans for early spring harvest is estimated to be 19 percent above last year and 27 percent above average. On the other hand, production for mid-spring harvest is expected to be 16 percent less than last year, which was about average. Combined production of early and mid-spring crops is slightly more this year than last. Late spring and early summer prices to growers for snap beans this year are expected to average as high as those of last year.

Acreage of cantaloups for spring harvest is 6 percent smaller than last year but 24 percent above average. Most of the acreage is in the Imperial Valley of California, where more than one-half the spring cantaloup acreage is covered. The crop on this covered acreage is a week to 10 days ahead of last year. This season probably will start with prices for cantaloups at least as high as last year.

Winter season production of carrots this year was about 9 percent larger than last year, but prices to growers this winter remained close to those of a year earlier. Reductions in acreage for spring harvest are nearly offset by good yields, so that production this spring is expected to be only 2 percent smaller than last spring and 29 percent above average.

Spring production of celery is estimated to be 16 percent below that of last year, though nearly one-third above average. Prices to growers for celery are expected to remain high until after June. Production during the winter season was 24 percent smaller this year than last and was accompanied by unusually high prices to farmers.

Acreage of watermelons for late spring harvest is 6 percent larger than last year and nearly double the average. In early April, growers intended to plant 6 percent fewer acres of watermelons for summer harvest than were harvested last year, but almost one-fifth more than average.

TRUCK CROPS FOR PROCESSING

Canned and frozen vegetables will be moving to market this year under conditions probably less favorable than at present. Despite large current stocks and the possibility of less favorable prices, processors apparently do not plan to reduce acreage to any great extent for this season.

Processors' reports of intentions to plant and contract for acreage of sweet corn for canning and freezing indicate plantings of 550,970 acres this year, 2.5 percent more than that planted last year. This would be second only to the record of 556,760 acres planted in 1943 and would be 24 percent above the 1936-45 average. If this acreage is planted, and if abandonment and yields are in line with the 10-year average, production will be less than 2 percent smaller than last year and fully one-fourth above average.

Processors' intentions in respect to green peas indicate a planted acreage for processing of 505,890 acres, not quite 4 percent less than last year and about 29 percent more than average. With 10-year average abandonment and yields per acre harvested on the intended acreage, the crop will be nearly 18 percent smaller than the 1946 crop. Since stocks of canned peas on March 1 were much larger than a year earlier, processors may contract or plant less than they originally intended.

Processors' intentions in early April indicated a 7 percent reduction in acreage planted to snap beans for processing this year compared with last. This acreage would be 11 percent above average. If the intended acreage is planted and abandonment and yields equal the 10-year average, production will be about 9 percent smaller than last year, but 13 percent above average.

According to plans in early April, processors of tomatoes and tomato products may plant and contract for an acreage about 1 percent less than the 1946 plantings. If abandonment and yields equal the 10-year average, the crop on this acreage will be 16 percent smaller than the 1946 crop, but more than 20 percent larger than the 10-year average.

If early season intentions of kraut packers are carried out, the acreage of cabbage grown under contract for or planted by packers would be only 54 percent of that planted last year and 31 percent less than the 10-year average. This acreage, however, does not include the acreage from which cabbage may be purchased on the open market by kraut packers. Such open-market acreage usually comprises 40 to 70 percent of the total planted acreage of cabbage used for kraut.

Packers intend to contract for or plant acreages smaller than in 1946 by 11 percent for cucumbers for pickles, and 32 percent for beets, but larger by 39 percent for pimientos.

Canners and freezers of spinach in California and Texas report a 1947 production of 42,110 tons, 26 percent less than in 1946 and 4 percent less than average. Both acreage and yield were below average in Texas. High yields in California failed to compensate for the one-third cut below the 1946 acreage.

CANNED VEGETABLES

1946-47 Pack of Canned Vegetables Is Record Large 1/

The 1946-47 pack of commercially canned vegetables is estimated to be about 266 million cases, compared with 232 million cases for the previous season. Among the major canned vegetable and vegetable juice packs, the 41.0 million cases of canned peas and 34.9 million cases of tomato and combination juices were new records. Snap beans (18.3 million cases), corn (31 million cases), and tomatoes (24.3 million cases) exceeded the 1945 packs.

Packers' and distributors' stocks of canned vegetables on March 1, 1947, were 118 million cases, 44 percent larger than a year earlier and 19 percent above the 1943-45 average. Stocks of green peas increased most.

1/ Data are compiled in equivalent cases of 24 No. 2 cans by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from various sources and include asparagus, beans (green lima), beans (snap), beets, carrots, corn, mixed vegetables, peas, pumpkin and squash, spinach, other leafy greens, hominy, kraut (including bulk), pimientos, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tomatoes, tomato pulp, tomato juice (including vegetable combinations), tomato sauce, tomato paste, catsup and chili sauce, and pickles (including bulk).

Civilian disappearance of canned vegetables for the 1946-47 season is tentatively estimated at about 45-1/2 pounds per capita. This would equal the previous season's record and exceed the 1940-44 average by about 9-1/2 pounds per capita. The increase in pack and reduction in military procurement for the 1946-47 season compared with the previous year will be reflected principally in larger stocks at the end of the season. Retail prices of canned vegetables are still very high.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

1946 Frozen Vegetable Pack Sets New Record for Eighth Consecutive Year

The pack of commercially frozen vegetables in 1946 amounted to about 450 million pounds, a 46 percent increase over the 1945 pack. All of the major frozen vegetable packs set new records.

Civilian consumption of frozen vegetables continues to expand and in 1946 reached a high of 2 pounds per capita. Cold-storage holdings on April 1, 1947, were 276 million pounds, compared with 147 million pounds a year earlier and the 1942-46 average of 102 million pounds. April 1 holdings of the more important frozen vegetables were as follows, in millions of pounds: Green peas, 72.2; sweet corn, 28.6; spinach, 26.5; broccoli, 19.0; snap beans, 17.9; lima beans, 16.1; and asparagus, 13.2.

POTATOES

Potato Supplies Continue Ample

Supplies of potatoes from the 1946 crop will be more than adequate for the usual domestic uses until fully replaced by new potatoes in late spring. On March 1, 1947, about 76 million bushels of merchantable potatoes from the 1946 crop were held by growers and local dealers in or near areas of production. This is about 28 percent more than the 60 million bushels in storage a year earlier and about 23 percent more than the 62-million-bushel March 1 average for 1944-46, the only years of record. Although stocks on March 1, 1947, were 74 million bushels below the record January 1 stocks of 150 million bushels, they were considerably larger than could be readily disposed of in the usual market outlets. This has required extensive Government purchases for export and other disposition. Government purchases for export were especially heavy in Maine, where 37 percent of the March 1 stocks were located.

Sharp Reduction in Acreage of Commercial Early Potatoes This Spring Compared with Last

The 181,000 acres of commercial early potatoes for harvest this spring, as estimated April 1, is 23 percent below the comparable acreage in 1946 and 8 percent below the 1936-45 average. Partly because of unfavorable weather at planting time, the plantings in the early spring areas of Florida and Texas were only 23,900 acres, one-third smaller than the 1946 acreage. The crop of 2,988,000 bushels estimated for these areas this year is 40 percent smaller than last year. The acreage in the late spring area is 21 percent smaller than a year ago, but, if the weather is favorable, supplies from this area will be adequate during late spring.

Prospective 1947 Acreage of all Potatoes 12 Percent Smaller Than 1946 Acreage

Plantings of all potatoes in 1947, including the commercial early acreage, will total about 2,309,700 acres, according to farmers' intentions on March 1. This is 8 percent smaller than the 1947 acreage goal, 12 percent smaller than the acreage planted in 1946, and 22 percent smaller than the 1936-45 average acreage. In the 8 intermediate States, where potatoes are harvested in the summer and generally not stored for long periods, prospective acreage is 9 percent smaller than in 1946. In the 29 late States, which provide the principal storage stocks for fall, winter, and early spring use, growers intended to plant 11 percent fewer acres than in 1946 and 24 percent fewer than the average for 1936-45. Reductions from the 1946 acreages, some of which are as much as 25 percent, are in prospect for all States except Indiana and South Carolina. For Indiana, the prospective acreage is the same as that of 1946, and for South Carolina it is 4 percent larger.

If prospective 1947 acreage is planted and yields per planted acre in each State equal the 1942-46 average, the national crop will be 355 million bushels. This would be 25 percent smaller than the record-large 1946 crop of 475 million bushels and 6 percent smaller than the 1936-45 average of 376 million bushels. However, growers may plant more than their early intentions indicated, and the upward trend in yields may continue, which would result in a larger crop than suggested above.

Government Continues to Help Move Large 1946 Crop

Potato supplies during the 1946-47 season have greatly exceeded the quantity that would move in the usual market channels at support price levels. To keep prices for the 1946 crop from falling below support levels, the Department of Agriculture last spring began purchasing early potatoes and diverting them from their usual outlets. This was continued through the summer with the intermediate crop. Loans covering about 115 million bushels were the chief means of support for the late crop. The final settlement of loans also has involved extensive Government purchase and disposal.

Government purchases and diversions of 1946-crop potatoes for price support are expected to total about 90 million bushels when the program is completed. Disposition of these purchases is tentatively placed as follows, in millions of bushels: Distillation, 33; exports for relief and for army use abroad, 10; livestock feed, 10; starch, glucose, and flour, 9; and public welfare, such as State and charitable institutions and the school lunch program, 3. In addition, the quantity abandoned in field storage and discarded as deteriorating lots may total 25 million bushels.

By late April, the exports planned had not been completed. Since it is so late in the season, it may be impractical to export the full quantity. Potatoes exported through Government assistance have gone mainly to Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, and Italy for food use, and to Germany for seed use.

Total shipments of 1946-crop potatoes by rail and boat, including USDA Government purchases, amounted to 286,199 cars through April 19 this season. This was about 1.5 percent more than the quantity shipped in the corresponding period of the 1945-46 season. Supplies available to consumers have been plentiful all season, as was true for the preceding season. Despite slightly lower prices for the 1946 crop, civilian per capita consumption for the year ending June 30, 1947, probably will be no larger than the 129 pounds estimated for the year before.

Prices for New Potatoes Expected to Continue Higher This Spring Than Last

Average prices received by growers for potatoes advanced monthly from the season's low of $1.22 per bushel in October 1946 to a high of $1.47 in April. Prices for the remaining stocks of old potatoes probably will average near the latter figure. Prices received by growers for new potatoes in mid-April were moderately higher than a year earlier. For example, Bliss Triumph potatoes, U. S. No. 1 quality, 1-1/2 inch minimum size, washed, at shipping points in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas averaged $2.22 per 50-pound sack for the week ending April 19, 1947, compared with $1.96 for the corresponding week a year earlier. This higher price largely results from the much smaller early spring crop and delayed market movement. Because of the smaller prospective spring crop this year, movement of new potatoes in May and June is not expected to be as heavy as a year earlier and prices most likely will continue higher.

1947 Potato Price Support Program

Plans for supporting prices received by growers for the 1947 crop of potatoes were announced March 14, 1947, by the Department of Agriculture. Support to prices will be provided by purchase, diversion, export, and loan operations.

The 1947 program differs in many ways from the 1946 program. Important features are: (1) Participation is limited to growers who have complied with potato acreage goals; (2) loans, while available, no longer will be the principal means of late-crop price support; (3) dealer assistance in program operations is authorized on a contract basis; (4) potatoes acquired under the price support program will be subject to resale in consumer markets at less than support prices; (5) the Department will assist and encourage the potato industry to utilize its own facilities to maintain orderly marketing and improve the quality offered to consumers by development of marketing agreements and orders in areas to which they are adapted, and (6) growers must take affirmative action to establish their eligibility for participation.

The prices at which the 1947 crops of early and intermediate potatoes will be supported also were announced March 14. These prices are based upon parity as of January 1, 1947. The announced support prices are about 12 percent higher than those of a year earlier, because of an increase in parity. As was true for the 1946 crop, the new support prices are calculated to reflect 90 percent of parity. Support prices for the late crop, which will be based on July 1 parity, are to be announced soon after that date.

SWEETPOTATOES

Prospective Plantings of Sweetpotatoes 3 Percent Below 1946 Acreage

Farmers in the United States will plant 663,800 acres to sweetpotatoes in 1947 if they carry out their intentions of March 1. This acreage is 3 percent smaller than that planted in 1946, 11 percent smaller than the 1936-45 average, and 17 percent smaller than the 1947 goal. In Louisiana, the most important commercial sweetpotato State, prospective plantings are 10 percent below the 1946 acreage.

If acreage intentions are carried out and yields equal the 1942-46 average by States, the national crop will be about 62 million bushels. Such a crop would be 7 percent smaller than the 1946 crop and 3 percent smaller than average production in 1936-45. Present legislation requires that prices received by growers for the 1947 crop be supported, if necessary, by the Government at not less than 90 percent of parity.

Further Increases in Prices for Sweetpotatoes Seem Likely This Season

Prices received by growers for sweetpotatoes have been rising seasonally since last November, and have been considerably above support levels. In April 1947, they averaged $2.33 per bushel, or 12 cents less than a year earlier. There is likely to be a slight further rise in prices for the remaining small stocks of the 1946 crop.

Shipments of sweetpotatoes by rail and boat totaled about 11,310 cars through April 19 this season. This is 13 percent smaller than in the comparable period of last season. However, shipments by truck have been moderately larger this season than last. Louisiana furnished nearly two-thirds of the rail and boat shipments. Shipments of 1946-crop sweetpotatoes from this State may be considerably reduced beginning May 1, when the Louisiana State quarantine regulation to control weevil infestation is scheduled to be applied on all interstate shipments.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Increase of 11 Percent in Acreage Planted to Dry Beans in Prospect for 1947

A total of 1,889,000 acres planted to dry edible beans is in prospect for 1947, according to growers' intentions as of March 1. This would be 11 percent larger than the acreage planted in 1946, 7 percent smaller than the 1936-45 average, and 12 percent smaller than the 1947 goal.

If 1942-46 average yields by States are obtained on the intended acreage, the national crop will be about 16.3 million bags (100 pounds each), uncleaned. A crop of this size would be about 3 percent larger than the 1946 crop and about the same as the average for 1936-45. Prices received by growers for the 1947 crop will be supported, if necessary, by the Department of Agriculture at not less than 90 percent of parity.

Prices Received by Growers for Dry Beans Continue About Twice Those of a Year Ago

Prices received by growers for dry beans averaged $12.30 per 100 pounds in April, about the same as they have been since shortly after the decontrol of prices last fall. This price, which is nearly double the price a year earlier, has reduced domestic consumption of beans but has left more for export. As it became apparent from time to time that additional beans would be available for export, they were allocated for shipment to other countries. Special allocations have been made to the United Kingdom, Italy, Austria, Greece, Eire, and to the U. S. Army for use in occupied areas of Europe. Stocks of beans at the close of the 1946-47 season are expected to be low, as they were at the end of the last season.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Prospects Point to Increased Production of Dry Peas in 1947

If farmers carry out their intentions of last March, they will plant about 589,000 acres to dry field peas this year. This would be an increase of nearly 10 percent over the acreage planted in 1946, 35 percent over the average for 1936-45, and 23 percent over the 1947 goal. Slightly more than half of the increase indicated for 1947 is in Washington and Idaho, the two principal pea-producing States.

If the prospective acreage is planted and yields equal the 1942-46 average yields by States, the crop will be about 7.25 million bags, uncleaned, about 325,000 more bags than were produced in 1946. About 3 million bags would be available for export. As announced last fall, prices received by growers for the 1947 crop, thresher-run basis, will be supported by the Department of Agriculture at 90 percent of parity.

Prices to Growers Continue Moderately Above Support Levels

Prices received by growers for dry peas averaged $4.85 per 100 pounds in April 1947, 11 percent higher than a year earlier. Since last fall, prices have been 26 to 32 percent above support levels. Surplus peas have moved readily into export channels including relief feeding by the Army in occupied areas. Consequently, stocks again will be low at the end of this season.

Table 1.- Potatoes, commercial early: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1936-45, annual 1946, and indicated 1947

Seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1936-45	1946	Indicated 1947	Average 1936-45	1946	Indicated 1947	Average 1936-45	1946	Indicated 1947
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bu.	Bu.	Bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Winter	11,830	14,400	11,100	126	169	86	1,508	2,428	960
Early spring	26,450	34,900	23,400	114	142	128	2,999	4,950	2,988
Late spring	170,030	200,700	157,600	157	252	-	26,687	50,504	-
Summer	128,290	132,500	1/112,600	158	209	-	20,293	27,651	-
Total ..	336,600	382,500	304,700	152	224	-	51,398	85,533	-

1/ Intended.

Table 2.-Potatoes: Unweighted average prices for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1, size A, washed stock, when quoted) at shipping points and terminal markets, indicated periods, 1946 and 1947

Location and variety	Unit	1946		1946-47 season				
		Month	Week ended	Month				Week ended
		Mar.	Apr. 20	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. 19
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Shipping points:								
New crop:								
Dade County, Fla. 1/	50-lb. sk.	1.95	2/ 2.23	--	--	2.35	2.22	--
Lower Rio Grande Valley points, Texas 1/	50-lb. sk.	--	1.96	--	--	--	--	2.22
Old crop:								
San Luis Valley, Colo., Red McClure 3/	100lb. sk.	2.75	--	2.17	2.27	2.32	2.96	--
Idaho Falls, Idaho, Russet Burbank 3/	100lb. sk.	2.95	--	2.28	2.42	2.39	2.88	--
Aroostook County, Me., various varieties	100lb. sk.	2.82	2.54	1.90	1.98	2.19	2.30	2.39
West Michigan points:								
Chippewa	100lb. sk.	2.69	--	1.98	2.27	2.21	2.42	--
Russet Rural	100lb. sk.	2.69	--	1.73	1.92	1.83	2.23	--
Western Nebr. Platte Valley points, Bliss Triumph	100lb. sk.	--	--	2.41	2.39	2.45	--	--
Rochester, N. Y., various varieties	100lb. sk.	3.21	--	2.00	2.07	2.41	2.08	2.50
Red River Valley, N. D., various varieties	100lb. sk.	1.96	--	1.58	1.59	1.77	2.02	--
Yakima, Ellensburg Dist., Wash., Russet Burbank 3/	100lb. sk.	--	--	2.42	2.43	2.46	2.92	3.22
Stevens Point, Wis., various varieites 4/	100lb. sk.	2.25	2.34	1.76	1.67	1.68	2.06	2.05
Terminal markets:								
New York:								
New crop:								
Bliss Triumph, Fla.	50-lb. sk.	2.33	2.81	--	3.42	2.93	2.27	3.12
Old crop:								
Green Mountain, L. I.	100lb. sk.	3.79	3.46	2.54	2.63	2.80	3.12	2.91
Green Mountain, Me.	100lb. sk.	3.58	3.38	2.40	2.55	2.71	2.95	2.99
Katahdin, Me.	100lb. sk.	3.63	3.44	2.41	2.56	2.74	2.97	3.04
Russet Burbank, Idaho	100lb. sk.	4.22	4.70	3.71	3.96	3.90	4.18	4.48
Chicago:								
New crop:								
Bliss Triumph, Fla.	50-lb. sk.	2.48	5/ 2.52	--	--	3.26	2.55	5/ 2.94
Old crop:								
Bliss Triumph, Nebr.	100lb. sk.	3.41	3.62	3.02	3.03	3.14	3.89	3.96
Bliss Triumph, Midw. 4/	100lb. sk.	--	2.39	2.16	2.35	--	--	--
Cobbler, Midw. 4/	100lb. sk.	2.33	2.26	1.90	2.00	2.21	2.41	2.03
Red McClure, Colo.	100lb. sk.	3.38	3.66	2.84	3.15	3.10	3.84	3.90
Russet Burbank, Idaho	100lb. sk.	3.69	3.88	3.13	3.34	3.30	3.81	3.68

1/ Bliss Triumph. 2/ Lake Okeechobee, Fla. 3/ Washed. 4/ Washed and unwashed. 5/ Texas.

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 3.- Sweetpotatoes: Unweighted average wholesale price per bushel for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1946 and 1947

Market, variety, and source	1946		1946-47 season				
	Month	Wk. ended	Month				Wk. ended
	March	Apr. 20	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr. 19
New York	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Golden, Md.	-	-	3.16	3.29	3.41	3.38	3.20
" N.J.	4.20	-	2.77	2.83	3.11	3.02	3.00
Jersey type, N.J.	3.87	4.14	2.70	2.51	2.49	2.36	2.15
Porto Rican, La.	4.12	4.33	3.61	3.69	3.52	3.29	3.51
" " Md.	-	-	2.78	2.99	-	-	-
" " N.C. and S.C.	4.11	4.28	3.19	3.35	3.48	3.38	3.58
Chicago							
Jersey type, Ill.	-	-	3.58	3.71	-	1/3.71	-
Nancy Hall, Ill.	3.74	4.04	3.03	2.96	2.97	2.87	-
" " Tenn.	3.62	3.74	2.98	2.92	2.80	2.77	2.78
Porto Rican, Ill.	3.84	4.08	3.48	3.42	3.36	3.14	-
" " La.	3.98	4.17	3.61	3.52	3.31	3.09	2.92
" " Tenn.	3.76	3.98	3.33	3.41	3.20	3.02	2.91

1/ Indiana.

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 4.- Truck crops for commercial processing: Intended plantings 1947, with comparisons

Crop	Planted acreage			1947 as a percentage of	
	Average 1936-45	1946	Intended 1947	Average 1936-45	1946
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Percent	Percent
Beans, snap	103,600	123,100	114,700	110.7	93.2
Beets	15,490	16,270	11,100	71.7	68.2
Cabbage for kraut 1/	9,950	12,670	6,840	68.7	54.0
Corn, sweet	444,280	537,480	550,970	124.0	102.5
Cucumbers for pickles	103,820	148,650	131,750	126.9	88.6
Peas, green	393,470	525,400	505,890	128.6	96.3
Pimientos	14,130	13,770	19,170	135.7	139.2
Spinach, California and Texas only 2/	16,730	15,990	11,690	69.9	73.1
Tomatoes	502,500	609,790	604,880	120.4	99.2
Total 3/	1,603,970	2,003,120	1,956,990	122.0	97.7

1/ "Contract acreage" only. "Open market" acreage is in addition to this and usually amounts to about half the total acreage of cabbage for kraut.

2/ Spinach for processing is grown in 4 other States (Md., Va., Ark., and Okla.), and the acreage in California and Texas is slightly less than half the total acreage.

3/ Including only parts of the acreage for kraut cabbage and for spinach, as indicated in footnotes 1 and 2. In addition to these 9 crops, the acreage of asparagus and lima beans for processing is still to be reported.

Table 5.-Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale prices at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods 1946 and 1947

Market and commodity	Unit	1946		1946-47 season				
		Month	Week ended	Month				Week ended
		Mar.	Apr. 20	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. 19
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York								
Asparagus, select and extra fancy, Calif.	Pyramid crt.	13.54	5.08	--	--	--	10.29	5.68
Beans, lima, Fla.	Bu.	5.83	5.66	6.64	6.44	6.36	--	6.58
Beans, snap, green, Fla.	Bu.	4.02	4.26	3.38	2.99	5.99	7.74	4.80
Beets, bunched, Tex.	1/2 L.A.crt.	2.18	2.65	2.93	3.43	2.33	2.37	2.00
Beets, topped, Tex.	50-lb. sack	1.62	--	--	--	--	2.00	1.92
Beets, topped, eastern	Bu.	.95	1.42	.89	1.06	1.00	1.00	--
Broccoli, western	Pony crt.	5.46	10.65	5.43	5.72	5.20	5.66	8.10
Cabbage, domestic, Fla.	50-lb. sack	2.50	3.15	1.62	1.89	1.45	1.30	1.56
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	50-lb. sack	2.49	--	--	1.78	1.70	1.60	1.49
Cabbage, Danish, N. Y.	50-lb. sack	2.02	--	.82	.83	.86	.79	.88
Carrots, bchd., western	L. A. crt.	4.56	4.84	5.14	5.73	4.62	4.77	3.78
Carrots, topped, Tex.	Bu.	2.64	3.19	--	2.11	2.10	2.36	2.09
Carrots, topped, eastern	Bu.	1.84	--	.94	1.08	.85	.92	1.00
Cauliflower, western	Pony crt.	2.61	3.22	2.42	2.23	2.62	2.64	3.40
Celery, G. Heart, Fla.	16-inch crt.	2.86	3.30	2.75	3.42	5.33	6.55	6.00
Celery, G. Heart, Calif.	1/2 crt.	--	--	3.74	4.93	--	--	--
Cucumbers, Fla.	Bu.	13.87	6.20	7.35	13.00	1/11.18	1/12.89	10.60
Eggplant, Fla.	Bu.	4.37	2.80	2.64	2.81	4.14	4.70	6.38
Escarole, Fla.	Bu.	1.70	2.32	1.60	1.84	4.07	3.24	1.60
Kale, Va.	Bu.	1.26	.86	.82	.74	.80	.90	.76
Lettuce, Iceberg, West.	L. A. crt.	5.10	4.74	5.18	6.47	7.05	4.04	6.50
Onions:								
Yellow Bermuda, Tex.	50-lb. sack	--	3.65	--	--	--	--	2.53
Sw. Spanish, Idaho 2/	50-lb. sack	3/3.25	--	1.91	2.50	2.49	3.19	--
Yellow, N. Y.	50-lb. sack	2.95	3.16	1.13	1.13	1.03	1.32	1.68
Peas, green, western	Bu.	3.70	2.96	4.05	5.44	4.46	3.77	3.40
Peas, green, Fla.	Bu.	--	--	2.42	3.41	--	--	--
Peppers, green, Fla.	Bu.	3.21	5.60	2.74	3.27	5.99	7.20	9.50
Spinach, Savoy type, Tex.	Bu.	1.08	--	1.41	2.22	2.01	2.21	.98
Tomatoes, Fla.	Lug, 6x6 &lgr.	5.93	6.12	4.31	6.56	5.80	--	--
Tomatoes, Fla.	Lug, 6x7	5.58	5.75	3.64	6.15	5.59	4/6.08	--
Chicago								
Asparagus, select and extra fancy, Calif.	Pyramid crt.	15.00	5.18	--	--	--	10.82	5.68
Beans, snap, green, Fla.	Bu.	4.22	4.25	3.69	3.16	5.73	8.72	5.50
Beets, bunched, Tex.	1/2 L. A. crt.	2.06	1.92	2.58	2.68	2.10	2.34	2.25
Beets, topped, Ill.	50-lb. sack	.94	1.52	.78	.82	.81	--	1.03
Broccoli, western	Pony crt.	4.40	6.65	4.51	4.80	4.03	5.30	7.12
Broccoli, Tex.	Pony crt.	3.36	--	3.51	3.68	3.41	4.13	--
Cabbage, domestic, Tex.	50-lb. sack	2.45	2.66	1.79	2.17	1.65	1.56	1.36
Cabbage, Danish, Wis.	50-lb. sack	1.45	--	.91	.93	.94	.97	--
Carrots, bchd, western	L. A. crt.	3.77	3.85	4.00	4.46	3.73	3.92	3.32

-Continued

Table 5.-Truck crops: Unweighted average wholesale prices at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when quoted), indicated periods 1946 and 1947 (Cont'd)

Market and commodity	Unit	1946		1946-47 season				
		Month	Week ended	Month				Week ended
		Mar.	Apr. 20	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. 19
Chicago (Cont'd)		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Carrots, bchd. Texas	L. A. crt.	3.42	--	3.23	3.82	3.27	3.29	3.12
Carrots, topped, Ill.	50-lb. sack	1.58	2.21	.79	.81	.76	.75	.75
Cauliflower, western	Pony crt.	2.23	2.82	2.00	2.19	2.29	2.35	3.28
Celery, G. Heart, Fla.	16-inch crt.	3.22	3.72	2.92	3.31	5.29	7.28	7.05
Celery, G. Heart, Calif.	1/2 crt.	--	--	3.66	4.64	--	--	--
Cucumbers, Fla.	Bu.	14.52	6.22	8.84	12.36	12.23	--	12.25
Eggplant, Fla.	Bu.	4.36	2.78	2.79	2.99	3.62	4.18	5.50
Escarole, Fla.	Bu.	1.66	2.34	1.61	1.61	3.73	3.02	2.40
Lettuce, Iceberg, western	L. A. crt.	4.60	4.02	4.32	5.56	6.35	3.64	5.18
Onions:								
Yellow Bermuda, Tex.	50-lb. sack	--	3.36	--	--	--	--	2.10
Sw. Spanish, western 2/	50-lb. sack	--	--	1.58	1.95	2.00	2.89	2.81
Yellow, midw.	50-lb. sack	2.65	--	.90	.93	.97	1.57	1.71
Peas, green, western	Bu.	3.55	2.91	3.64	4.79	4.38	3.53	3.22
Peppers, green, Fla.	Bu.	4.12	6.30	3.41	3.82	6.86	8.08	7.75
Spinach, flat type, Tex.	Bu.	1.10	--	5/1.15	1.67	1.47	1.69	1.58
Tomatoes, Mexico	Lug, 6x6 &lgr	6.09	6.04	6/4.10	5.05	4.13	6.63	8.65
Tomatoes, Mexico	Lug, 6x7	5.33	5.42	6/2.91	4.32	3.70	6.21	8.28
Tomatoes, repacked	10-lb. bskt.	2.38	2.49	1.77	2.09	1.77	2.48	3.18
Tomatoes, hothouse	8-lb. bskt.	--	2.48	2.41	2.91	--	--	3.48

1/ Cuba.
2/ 3-inch minimum.
3/ 3-inch and 2-3 inch minimum.
4/ Mexico.
5/ Savoy type.
6/ Texas.

Compiled from records of the Production and Marketing Administration.

Table 6.- Truck crops, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes: Carlot (rail and boat) shipments from originating points in the United States, for indicated periods in 1946 and 1947 1/

Commodity	1946		1946-47 season				
	Month	Week ended	Month				Week ended
	Mar.	Apr.20	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.19
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Asparagus	269	572	---	---	7	744	256
Beans, snap and lima	665	196	744	802	240	70	133
Beets	147	32	25	27	41	143	50
Broccoli	466	27	268	328	392	308	60
Cabbage	3,409	955	1,798	3,059	3,071	3,594	664
Carrots	2,856	899	1,661	2,581	2,018	2,916	617
Cauliflower	1,761	339	1,593	1,291	1,648	1,302	175
Celery	3,712	691	2,949	2,917	2,205	2,653	702
Cucumbers	66	171	46	1	1	---	13
Eggplant	3	---	7	1	---	---	---
Escarole	204	55	151	149	49	115	44
Greens, except spinach	125	20	222	289	280	194	52
Lettuce and romaine	8,019	2,203	6,506	6,215	6,469	7,801	2,134
Mixed vegetables	5,054	871	4,307	5,492	4,288	4,937	819
Onions	955	1,371	2,468	3,140	2,085	2,019	829
Peas, green	375	208	166	49	183	393	97
Peppers, green	262	45	273	189	71	64	3
Spinach	956	71	669	708	696	977	106
Tomatoes	1,479	679	852	675	244	107	24
Turnips and rutabagas	52	1	57	65	40	28	5
Total of above	31,393	9,706	24,762	27,978	24,028	28,135	6,783
Potatoes:							
Early	1,717	1,597	82	198	475	756	1,258
Intermediate	15	---	16	15	4	---	---
Late, surplus	29,215	4,173	16,853	20,275	20,924	28,976	4,757
Late, other	263	14	306	342	269	349	12
Total	31,210	5,784	17,257	20,830	21,672	30,081	6,007
Sweetpotatoes	979	183	1,402	1,144	956	1,053	228
Grand total	63,582	15,673	43,421	49,952	46,656	59,269	13,018

1/ Does not include shipments by motor truck. Includes Government purchases. Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.

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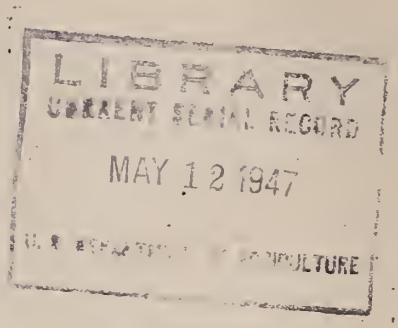

Table 7.- Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, April 1, 1947, with comparisons

Commodity	Average 1942-46	1946	1947			
	Apr. 1	Apr. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	3,785	4,825	17,594	15,911	14,598	13,237
Beans, lima	8,939	9,197	24,460	21,828	18,745	16,065
Beans, snap	7,347	11,079	25,551	23,241	21,319	17,929
Broccoli	5,436	14,488	13,586	15,335	17,565	18,975
Cauliflower	-	4,966	7,921	8,855	8,894	8,698
Corn, sweet	8,947	13,434	37,927	35,570	31,662	28,554
Peas, green	23,487	29,840	102,972	93,640	83,154	72,168
Spinach	9,658	16,718	24,972	23,724	23,164	26,484
Brussels sprouts	-	3,898	6,892	7,063	7,275	6,755
Pumpkin and squash	-	5,536	11,140	11,531	10,037	9,516
Baked beans	-	949	788	726	198	178
Vegetable purees	-	402	166	159	146	131
All other vegetables	34,388	32,062	59,115	62,724	59,831	57,060
Total	101,987	147,394	333,084	320,307	296,588	275,750

Compiled from reports of the Production and Marketing Administration.